

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07237 01 OF 02 151408Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W
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P 151245Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8801

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 7237

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EGEN, UR

SUBJECT: CALL ON MAZUROV, MAY 14

1. SUMMARY: FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MAZUROV ACCEPTED INVITATION TO VISIT U.S., SAYING HE WOULD COME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID SOVIETS LOOK FORWARD TO PRESIDENT'S VISIT BUT SOUGHT MY ASSURANCES THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD INDEED MAKE THE TRIP. HE CLAIMED THAT EMIGRATION APPLICATIONS WERE FALLING OFF AS PEOPLE LEARNED MORE ABOUT PROBLEMS OF ADJUSTMENT IN ISRAEL. HE ACKNOWLEDGED SOME IMPROVEMENTS AND CLARIFICATIONS WERE BEING PROJECTED IN THE ECONOMY, BUT SAID THERE WAS TO BE NO MAJOR REORGANIZATION OR REFORM. A PLENUM TO CONSIDER CHANGES MIGHT OCCUR, BUT NOT NECESSARILY THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MAZUROV RECEIVED ME MAY 14 IN HIS KREMLIN OFFICE, WITH MFA OFFICIAL KROKHALEV, UNIDENTIFIED MAZUROV AIDE AND ONE EMBOFF PRESENT. FOLLOWING INITIAL PLEASANTRIES, I HANDED HIM LETTER CONVEYING INVITATION TO VISIT U.S. AT TIME CONVENIENT TO HIM. HE SEEMED DELIGHTED AND SURPRISED, ALTHOUGH MFA HAD BEEN ALERTED TO INVITATION TWO MONTHS AGO. HE SAID HE WOULD CERTAINLY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE INVITATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I TOLD HIM WE WOULD ADAPT PROGRAM TO HIS INTERESTS, NOTING THAT ONE THEME COULD BE ROAD-BUILDING AND TRANSPORT, BUT THAT OTHERS COULD BE ADDED AS HE WISHED. HE DID NOT ASK WHO WOULD BE HOST, EXCEPT TO CONFIRM THAT IT WAS U.S. GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD EXTENDED THE INVITATION.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 07237 01 OF 02 151408Z

3. MAZUROV MENTIONED HIS PREVIOUS TRIP TO U.S. IN 1960,

WHEN HE HEADED BELORUSSIAN DELEGATION TO UNGA. PODGORNÝ HAD HEADED UKRAINIAN DELEGATION THAT SAME YEAR. MAZUROV HAD DRIVEN DOWN TO WASHINGTON, STOPPING IN BALTIMORE, AND WAS IMPRESSED WITH AMERICAN ROADS. AS A GRADUATE OF A ROAD-BUILDING COLLEGE, HE ALWAYS HAD STRONG INTEREST IN U.S. HIGHWAY ACHIEVEMENTS. NOW HIS RESPONSIBILITIES WERE GOVERNMENT-WIDE -- IN FIELDS OF ECONOMICS, CULTURE AND HEALTH.

4. MAZUROV SAID SOVIETS ARE EXPECTING PRESIDENT'S VISIT. HE ASKED ME WHETHER I HAD ANY DOUBTS THAT PRESIDENT WOULD COME. I ASSURED HIM THAT THIS VISIT IS DEFINITELY ON. HE SAID HE REALIZED PRESIDENT HAS DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES, BUT SOVIETS ALSO THINK HE WILL CARRY THROUGH WITH THE VISIT. HE BELIEVED MEETING WITH BREZHNEV AND OTHER LEADERS WOULD HAVE GOOD IMPACT ON RELATIONS. MAZUROV SAID THE 1983#MEETING HAD BEEN A GREAT EVENT, AND THERE WOULD BE PLENTY OF WORK TO DO THIS YEAR AT THE SUMMIT.

5. MAZUROV SAID HE FELT FORTHCOMING MEETING SHOULD SHOW THE WORLD SOME ACCOMPLISHMENTS. HE BELIEVED AGREEMENTS IN SEVERAL FIELDS WERE COMING ALONG WELL, ALTHOUGH SALT AGREEMENT WAS "VERY DIFFICULT." I INDICATED THAT THE SUBJECT ITSELF WAS DIFFICULT. HE SAID AGREEMENTS IN OTHER AREAS WOULD BE GOOD, AND PERHAPS SOME STEPS FORWARD COULD BE REGISTERED IN SALT.

6. IN A RELAXED WAY, MAZUROV NOTED THAT CERTAIN CIRCLES DON'T ACCEPT DETENTE AND TRY TO FRIGHTEN PEOPLE WITH THE SOVIET THREAT. HE SAID USSR DID NOT BELIEVE IN EXPORTING REVOLUTION. I SAID THE MAJORITY IN THE U.S. SUPPORT DETENTE; HOWEVER, THERE HAD BEEN LONG PERIOD OF DIFFICULT RELATIONS AND TIME WOULD BE NEEDED ON BOTH SIDES TO ACHIEVE NORMALIZATION. I ADDED THAT DETAILS OF SOME OF THE CURRENT ISSUES ARE COMPLEX, E.G. CREDITS. HE ACCEPTED THIS BUT SAID SOME PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO CHANGE. HE POINTED OUT THAT POLITICAL RELATIONS WERE RELATED TO ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND THAT USSR COULD GET ALONG WITHOUT TRADE WITH U.S. OR OTHERS IF NECESSARY.

7. I MENTIONED EMIGRATION AS A PROBLEM, NOTING THAT THIS OF COURSE WAS AN INTERNAL AFFAIR FOR THE USSR. MAZUROV AGREED EMPHATICALLY WITH LATTER THOUGHT, HOWEVER, HE SAID, EVEN IF
SECRET

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 07237 01 OF 02 151408Z

ONE LOOKED AT IT IN TERMS OF OBLIGATIONS TO HUMAN SOCIETY, THERE WAS NO BASIS FOR CLAIMS AGAINST USSR. EXCEPT FOR PERSONS POSSESSING STATE SECRETS, SOVIET UNION WAS ALLOWING EMIGRATION. SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD SUGGESTED THAT EMIGRATION IN MOST PROMINENT CASES BE ALLOWED TO REDUCE PUBLIC OUTCRY, AND SOVIET UNION WAS IN FACT LETTING PEOPLE LEAVE IF THEY DIDN'T HAVE SECRET INFORMATION. HE CALIMED THAT NUMBER OF PERSONS DESIRING TO EMIGRATE HAD DROPPED SHARPLY, WITH FEWER APPLICATIONS

BEING SUBMITTED. I ASKED WHY, AND HE SAID HE TOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE CHANGED SITUATION IN ISRAEL AND THE LETTERS SENT BACK BY THOSE WHO EMIGRATED PREVIOUSLY. NEW EMIGRANTS IN ISRAEL EXPERIENCED EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS, HOUSING PROBLEMS, AND LANGUAGE PROBLEMS. I SAID WE HAD DIFFICULTIES IN U.S. WITH CONGRESSIONAL OPINION ON EMIGRATION ISSUE, BUT SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS SEEKING ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE ON TRADE-EMIGRATION LINKAGE. MAZUROV GAVE HIS BLESSING TO THIS EFFORT IN TRADITIONAL RUSSIAN EXPRESSION "GOD GRANT IT."

9. I ASKED MAZUROV ABOUT REORGANIZATION OF SOCIET ECONOMY, REFERRING TO DECEMBER 1973 PLENUM. HE SAID PLENUM HAD MADE ROUTINE ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC WORK, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT RAPIDLY CHANGING CONDITIONS AND MANAGEMENT TOOLS. HE SAID THERE WAS NOT SPECIAL REFORM OR SERIES OF REFORMS PLANNED -- MERELY PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ECONOMY. ONE TECHNIQUE WAS TO REMOVE SOME OF THE SPECIFIC DETAILS OF MANAGEMENT FROM MINISTRIES, PLACING THEM IN PRODUCTION ASSOCIATIONS (SOME OF WHICH WOULD CUT ACROSS MINISTRY LINES). MINISTRIES WOULD CONCENTRATE ON POLICY. THUS PRODUCTION WOULD BE ORGANIZED MORE LIKE IT IS IN U.S. "ALONG LINES OF TRUSTS AND CARTELS." (THESE WORDS HAVE A DIFFERENT MEANING HERE, SO I DID NOT DISPUTE HIS ANALOGY, WHICH PROBABLY REFERS TO CORPORATE ORGANIZATION).

NOTE BY OC/T: PARA 4 (#) DATE AS RECEIVED.

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07237 02 OF 02 151417Z

42

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P 151245Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8802

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 MOSCOW 7237

EXDIS

10. MAZUROV SPECIFICALLY DENIED THAT THERE WOULD BE MAJOR CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT APPARATUS, ALTHOUGH THERE MIGHT BE "CLARIFICATION" OF SOME FUNCTIONS; HE MENTIONED GOSPLAN IN

THIS CONNECTION. I ASKED WHETHER ANOTHER PLENUM WOULD BE NEEDED TO EFFECT PLANNED CHANGES, AND HE SAID IT PROBABLY WOULD BE. HOWEVER, BROADER QUESTIONS SUCH AS ENERGY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED. THE PARTY WOULD BE EXAMINING BASIS TRENDS OF THE SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL REVOLUTION IN PARTICULAR SUCH BROAD PROBLEMS AS ENERGY PRODUCTION REQUIRED CONSIDERATION: I.E., SHOULD CONSTRUCTION OF ATOMIC ENERGY PLANTS BE SPEEDED UP OR SHOULD MORE EMPHASIS BE PLACED ON COAL. IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION, HE SAID NO DATE FOR A PLENUM HAD BEEN FIXED, BUT ECONOMIC BODIES ARE NOW EXAMINING THESE QUESTIONS. MAZUROV COULD NOT SAY WHETHER SUCH A PLENUM WOULD TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR.

11. I SAID, IN REFERENCE TO HIS REMARKS ON ENERGY, THAT U.S. WAS ALSO WORKING ON ENERGY POLICY AND I ALLEDED TO PROJECT INDEPENDENCE, MAZUROV ASKED IF THIS MEANT U.S. WOULD NOT BE INTERESTED IN IMPORTING GAS, AND I REPLIED THAT THIS QUESTION WAS ONE WHICH REQUIRED STUDY.

12. MAZUROV RESPONDED TO MY QUESTIONS ABOUT FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS BY SAYING THAT SOVIET PEOPLE SUPPORT GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THEY SEE PROGRESS AT HOME AND PRESERVATION OF PEACE IN WORLD. HE SAID HE AND OTHER LEADERS WOULD MAKE CUSTOMARY CAMPAIGN SPEECHES BEGINNING A WEEK OR TWO BEFORE JUNE 16 ELECTIONS. NOTING AREAS WHERE NEEDS OF PEOPLE NOT FULLY MET,
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 07237 02 OF 02 151417Z

MAZUROV NAMED HOUSING, COLOR TELEVISION AUTOMOBILES, "OF WHICH WE CAN UNFORTUNATELY SELL ONLY HALF MILLION A YEAR, AND EVERYBODY WANTS ONEM" BASICALLY, HOWEVER, NOBODY WAS HUNGRY AND IMPOVERISHED. EVERYBODY HAD AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING.

13. MAZUROV SAID DISSIDENTS WERE JUST A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE. NEW YORK TIMES NOW ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOLZHENITSYN WAS NOT WHAT PEOPLE EXPECTED -- WESTERN OBSERVERS NOW ARE SAYING THAT HE IS A TSARIST, MONARCHIST AND ANTI-DEMOCRAT. I SAID PEOPLE HAVE VARIOUS VIEWS, AND THERE SEEM TO BE DIFFERENCES AMONG THE DISSIDENTS. MAZUROV AGREED, BUT SAID PEOPLE MUST OBEY THE LAW, AND SOLZHENITSYN HAD BROKEN IT -- SO HE WAS EXILED.

14. MAZUROV WISHED ME SUCCESS IN MY POST AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT OPPONENTS OF BETTER RELATIONS WOULD FAIL.

15. COMMENT. MAZUROV MAKES A GOOD IMPRESSION. HE IS TRIM AND WELL-DRESSED, SPEAKS EASILY AND APPEARS TO HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR. ALTHOUGH LOW KEYED IN MANNER, HE HAS AUTHORITATIVE AIR. I WAS IMPRESSED WITH HIS IMMEDIATE FAVORABLE REACTION TO THE INVITATION TO VISIT THE U.S.
I HAD EXPECTED A MORE CAUTIOUS AND TEMPORIZING ANSWER. IN

GENERAL, MAZUROV HAD AIR OF CONFIDENCE AND GAVE NO HINT
OF ANY PROBLEMS IN LEADERSHIP.

16. MAZUROV'S COMMENTS ON REFORM AND SUBJECTS FOR
CONSIDERATION AT A PLENUM WERE INTERESTING. ALTHOUGH UNCLEAR,
I WOULD SAY HE DID NOT RULE OUT A PLENUM IN NEAR-TERM TO TAKE
UP "CLARIFICATIONS" OF CERTAIN FUNCTIONS, ALTHOUGH HE
SPECIFICALLY DENIED ANY PLANS FOR MAJOR CHANGES. HE SEEMED
TO PUT DECISIONS REGARDING BASIC ECONOMIC QUESTIONS, INCLUDING
ENERGY, IN A LONGER TIME FRAME.
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